

Town of REDMOND

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November 29, 2003

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
STB Finance Docket No. 34075
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001



Atten: Phillis Johnson-Ball

This letter is in regards to possible environmental impact with the proposed location of a rail line in Sevier and Sanpete County between Salina, Utah and Levan, Utah. Redmond Town has an interest due to the fact that Redmond Town has a well in the vicinity of the proposed route. This well is the Town's main water supply. There is an official water source protection plan in place to protect this aquifer. This plan includes a zone extending west and slightly north of the well that is considered protected. The proposed line would cross over the 3-year TOT Zone. There are also secondary wells, well #2 and #3, that are located east and slightly south of the main source.

Another well is being developed that is north and east of the main water source, one to two miles. That protection plan is not yet in place but it is anticipated that the zone will also extend west and the rail line would be crossing the protected zone. Since that well is further east, the rail line would probable cross over the 15-year TOT Zone.

While the possibility of a contaminating spill from the rail line in this area is very remote, we believe it does need to be noted and addressed. Attached is a map that shows the location of the wells and the protected zones. What the impact really is with our water sources, we do not know. However, we thought it important enough that it be addressed.

Other reasons for not using the proposed route include some of the following concerns expressed by our residents: wet lands, wild life habitat, productive farm land and pastures, relocating irrigation ditches and culverts, besides several residents finding the proposed route going right through their houses or in their back yards.

We do not oppose the rail line but it is our recommendation that the rail line be located further west than the proposed route, at least above the State Canal. This location seems more feasible because fewer people would feel the impact, and the town's main water source would continue to be protected. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Redmond Town Council
Linda Mickelsen, Mayor

